



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

Raised Bill No. 5541

LCO No. 2677

02677_____JUD

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

AN ACT CONCERNING JUROR SERVICE AND SELECTION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 51-217 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2010*):

3 (a) All jurors shall be electors, or citizens of the United States who
4 are residents of this state having a permanent place of abode in this
5 state and appear on the list compiled by the Jury Administrator under
6 subsection (b) of section 51-222a, who have reached the age of
7 eighteen. A person shall be disqualified to serve as a juror if such
8 person (1) is found by a judge of the Superior Court to exhibit any
9 quality which will impair the capacity of such person to serve as a
10 juror, except that no person shall be disqualified on the basis of
11 deafness or hearing impairment; (2) has been convicted of a felony
12 within the past seven years or is a defendant in a pending felony case
13 or is in the custody of the Commissioner of Correction; (3) is not able
14 to speak and understand the English language; (4) is the Governor,
15 Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller or
16 Attorney General; (5) is a judge of the Probate Court, Superior Court,

17 Appellate Court or Supreme Court, is a family support magistrate or is
18 a federal court judge; (6) is a member of the General Assembly,
19 provided such disqualification shall apply only while the General
20 Assembly is in session; (7) is seventy years of age or older and chooses
21 not to perform juror service; or (8) is incapable, by reason of a physical
22 or mental disability, of rendering satisfactory juror service. Any person
23 claiming a disqualification under subdivision (8) of this subsection
24 must submit to the Jury Administrator a letter from a licensed
25 physician stating the physician's opinion that such disability prevents
26 the person from rendering satisfactory juror service. In reaching such
27 opinion, the physician shall apply the following guideline: A person
28 shall be capable of rendering satisfactory juror service if such person is
29 able to perform a sedentary job requiring close attention for six hours
30 per day, with short work breaks in the morning and afternoon
31 sessions, for at least three consecutive business days.

32 (b) The Jury Administrator may determine, in such manner and at
33 such times as the Jury Administrator deems feasible, whether any
34 person is qualified to serve as juror under this section and whether any
35 person may be excused for extreme hardship.

36 (c) The Jury Administrator shall have the authority to establish and
37 maintain a list of persons to be excluded from the summoning process,
38 which shall consist of (1) persons who are disqualified from serving on
39 jury duty on a permanent basis due to a disability for which a licensed
40 physician has submitted a letter stating the physician's opinion that
41 such disability permanently prevents the person from rendering
42 satisfactory jury service, (2) persons seventy years of age or older who
43 have requested not to be summoned, (3) elected officials enumerated
44 in subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section and judges
45 enumerated in subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of this section during
46 their term of office, [and] (4) persons excused from jury service
47 pursuant to section 51-217a who have not requested to be summoned
48 for jury service pursuant to said section; (5) persons who are not
49 citizens of the United States; (6) persons who exercise operational

50 authority over the daily affairs of a small business; and (7) any person
 51 attending school or a college, university or other institution of higher
 52 education as a regularly enrolled full-time student who has requested
 53 not to be summoned during any month of such attendance and has
 54 indicated the months of such attendance in such request. Persons
 55 requesting to be excluded pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this
 56 subsection [must] shall provide the Jury Administrator with their
 57 names, addresses, dates of birth and federal Social Security numbers
 58 for use in matching. The Jury Administrator may require persons
 59 requesting to be excluded pursuant to subdivision (6) or (7) of this
 60 subsection to submit a request annually in order to maintain such
 61 exclusion. The request to be excluded from the summoning process
 62 may be rescinded at any time with written notice to the Jury
 63 Administrator. For the purposes of this section, "small business" means
 64 any person, firm, corporation, limited liability company, partnership
 65 or association actively engaged in business or self-employed for at
 66 least three consecutive months that, on at least fifty per cent of its
 67 working days during the preceding twelve months, employed no more
 68 than fifty employees.

69 Sec. 2. Section 51-220 of the general statutes is repealed and the
 70 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2010*):

71 The number of jurors to be [chosen] summoned for jury duty from
 72 each town shall be equal to a percentage of the town's population
 73 rounded off to the nearest whole number, such percentage to be
 74 determined by the Jury Administrator. Such population figures shall
 75 derive from the last published census of the United States government.
 76 No juror shall be summoned for jury duty at a court location in a
 77 judicial district that does not include the town or a portion of the town
 78 in which the juror resides.

79 Sec. 3. Section 51-232a of the general statutes is repealed and the
 80 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2010*):

81 The Jury Administrator may modify the date, location or other

82 condition of juror service in order to meet the urgent needs of the
83 court, except that no juror shall be summoned for jury duty at a court
84 location in a judicial district that does not include the town or a portion
85 of the town in which the juror resides. The Jury Administrator shall
86 employ any means of notice that is appropriate under the
87 circumstances.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	51-217
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	51-220
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	51-232a

Statement of Purpose:

To: (1) Permit noncitizens, full-time students and small business owners to be excluded from the juror summoning process, and (2) require the Jury Administrator to summon each juror to a court location that is in a judicial district that includes the town in which the juror resides.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]